

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



Reply to Attn of: Code ZH

October 30, 1999

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave., Suite 400
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

On behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration it is my privilege and pleasure to extend to you an invitation to participate in the creation of *The Infinite Journey: Eyewitness Accounts of NASA and the Age of Space*, a lavishly illustrated book being published by Discovery Channel Publishing that will recount the emotional drama of major space events that have taken place throughout NASA's forty-year history. We would like to interview you for your thoughts and insights on the genetics of bacteria and the possibility of life beyond Earth for possible inclusion in our coverage of Mariner 4. We feel that a contribution from you would greatly enhance the content quality of this book, which promises to be historically significant.

Written by William E. Burrows, author of *This New Ocean* and *Deep Black* and a noted expert on the space age, *The Infinite Journey*, set to publish in October 2000, promises to be a unique and valuable chronicle of our space history. Divided into thematic chapters that cover NASA's major space programs, this book highlights thirty space-related events and features as its focus a generous collection of personal anecdotes, recollections, and commentaries from participants and eyewitnesses to space exploration. Astronauts, engineers, scientists, mission specialists, flight directors, and behind-the-scenes personnel, as well as broadcasters, astronomers, artists, writers, historians, environmentalists, and others with a valuable perspective to impart, will be a part of this important project.

Would you consider extending to us approximately one hour of your time, to be scheduled at your convenience, to speak with an assigned writer? We would be glad to furnish you with a preview of talking points, as well as the opportunity to approve edits of the excerpt(s) selected for publication. We will also furnish you with a complimentary copy of the book upon its release.

Should you agree to participate, kindly contact me at 202-358-0383 or at roger.launius@hq.nasa.gov. We would then arrange to have someone set up an interview appointment with you. You may also speak directly with Mary Kalamaras, the editor on the project, who can be reached at either 301-771-3773 or mary_kalamaras@discovery.com. ✓

On behalf of NASA and Discovery Channel Publishing, I hope that you will consider participating in the making of *The Infinite Journey* and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger D. Launius", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Roger D. Launius
NASA Chief Historian